

# **Pesticide Warehouse III (PWIII)**

## **Puerto Rico**

EPA ID#: PRD987367299

### **EPA REGION 2**

#### **Congressional District(s): 01**

Manati

Road No. 670, kilometer (km) 3.7, in a rural/residential

#### **NPL LISTING HISTORY**

Proposed Date: 9/5/2002

Final Date: 4/30/2003

## **Site Description**

The PWIII Site is an inactive facility, is approximately 2 acres in size and consists of a main warehouse, a smaller warehouse, and a small shed which contain an on-site well. The PWIII Site is bounded to the south by Road No. 670, to the west and north by fields, and to the east by a church and a drug and an alcohol rehabilitation center (formerly a retirement home). The Site, which began operations in 1954, was owned and operated by the Puerto Rico Land Authority until 1996. The Site is currently operated by Agro Campo, Inc. Site operations during this period included the storage and preparation of pesticides/insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; had also reportedly used part of the warehouse for the processing and canning of pineapple.

## **Threat and Contaminants**

Based on the potential for pesticide contamination on the site and the potential impact on off-site receptors, EPA conducted a SI sampling event that included the collection of 15 surface soil samples (depth: 0 to 6 inches) at locations both on and off the PWIII site. Diazinon, malathion, diuron, 4,4-DDE, methoxychlor, endrin aldehyde, and toxaphene were detected in on-site surface soil samples at concentrations significantly above concentrations detected in background soil samples. Those contaminants were also detected at concentrations significantly above background samples collected from the leach pit. In addition, they were either observed on the site or were listed in site Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

Other pesticides detected in on-site soils at concentrations significantly above background included alpha-BHC, heptachlor, aldrin, endosulfan I, dieldrin, endrin, alpha-chlordane, and gamma-chlordane. Several pesticides detected on the PWIII site exceeded EPA soil screening levels (SSLs). Zinc was also detected at concentrations significantly above background in both on-site soils and the retirement home located adjacent to the PWIII site.

Based on the analytical results of ground water samples collected by USGS in 1992, there is an observed release of toxaphene and dieldrin to the North Coast Limestone Aquifer System - Upper Aquifer, which is the aquifer of concern. The portion of this aquifer underlying sources at the PWIII site is karst. Potable wells within the PWIII site target distance limit and screened in the aquifer of concern serve a population of approximately 110,298 people. The nearest potable well is Coto Sur No. 5, which is located approximately 0.31 mile east of the PWIII site. This well serves a population of approximately 3,888 people. In addition wellhead protection areas exist within the target distance limit, and ground water is used as a resource. The Puerto Rican boa, a federally-listed endangered species known to inhabit forested limestone hills in Puerto Rico, was identified at approximately 0.4 miles west of the site.

## **Cleanup Approach**

Due to the complexity of the karst terrain hydrogeology at the Site, EPA has determined that the Site investigation and remediation should be addressed in two Operable Units. The first Operable Unit ("OU1"), will evaluate the soil contamination. The second Operable Unit ("OU2"), will determine the nature and extent of groundwater contamination at the Site.

EPA enters in two Administrative Agreement Orders on Consent with Puerto Rico Land Authority and Agro Campo, Inc for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for Soil and Groundwater to fully characterize the nature and extent of the on-site soil, groundwater contamination, and characterize sediments and surface water in the drainage ditch. These Orders become effective on July 2005 for Operable Unit I (Soil) and October 2005 for & Unit II (Groundwater). The schedule to complete this studies are two years.

EPA verifies the existence and contents of the drums reportedly buried on-site. EPA conducted studies to verify the existence of drums reportedly buried. The existence of drums were negative.

## **Cleanup Progress**

The purpose of this statement of work (SOW) is to describe the requirements for conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to select a remedy to eliminate, reduce, or control risks to human health and the environment at Operable Unit I (Soil) & Unit II (Groundwater) of the Pesticide Warehouse III Site. The objectives of this RI/FS are to characterize the site and support the selection of an approach for site remediation, and use these data in support of a Record of Decision (ROD).

## **Site Repositories**

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